



Comprehensive Plan Task Force Meeting

Minutes April 21, 2022

Harpswell Town Office

Approved May 19, 2022

Members Present: Brian Hirst, Monique Coombs, Phil Taylor, Dave Brown, Peter Lieberwirth, Julie Moulton, Mary Ann Nahf, Dave Johnson, Allan LeGrow

Staff Members Present: Mark Eyerman

1. **Open Meeting:** Chairman LeGrow called the meeting to order at 2:35 PM. TF members were introduced.
2. **Recap of March 17th Meeting:** Chairman LeGrow briefly summarized the results of the TF exercise conducted March 17th and indicated they would be used to help frame key items/areas of interest for the community to consider during the “vision development” process that will take place later in the year.
3. **New Business:**
 - a. **Town Water and Wells - B. Hirst:** TF member Brian Hirst then presented information on ground water and the state of residential wells in Harpswell. He referred to previous studies which suggested that Harpswell should not experience water problems, assuming current re-charge and use rates remained consistent. However, he also noted that increasing residential development needed to be considered and recommended that a new ground water study be conducted. He also noted that as many as 25% of the wells in Harpswell may not be properly documented, raising further questions about the accuracy of past studies.
 - b. **Commercial Fishing- M. Coombs:** TF member Monique Coombs followed with a presentation and discussion of commercial fishing in Harpswell. She made a number of key points:
 - First Monique clarified the meaning of the “working waterfront” for fishermen, which encompasses access to the water by a wharf/pier, the ability to store and maintain equipment, parking, and the ability to handle bait, fuel and other necessities.
 - Second, she noted that fishing is essentially a completely “out-of-pocket” activity, making it extremely challenging and sensitive to external factors such as market fluctuations, sea-level rise and other climate related factors.
 - Third, she noted that lobster harvesting in Harpswell was valued at about \$24 million based on recent information, making it one of the largest in the state.
 - Finally, she noted that there is often an inherent conflict between commercial fishing and recreational boating, since both activities are competing for limited

space. Finding ways to accommodate both will be important to Harpswell's future.

c. CP Information Flyer – A. LeGrow: Chairman LeGrow reported that the flyer prepared to explain the CP effort to the community was not permitted to be disseminated at Town Meeting since there was an item requesting financial support for the CP on the warrant. Additional opportunities to inform the community about the CP are being pursued.

4. **Other Business:** The following items were deferred until the May meeting:

- Approval of the March 17 minutes
- Selection of a Vice-Chair

5. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:10pm.

Next Meeting: May 19, 2022 at 2:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kayla Matthews

Recording Secretary